ALBERTA COLLEGES COMMISSION, SUITE 600, DEVONIAN BUILDING, 112 STREET & JASPER AVENUE, EDMONTON, ALBERTA

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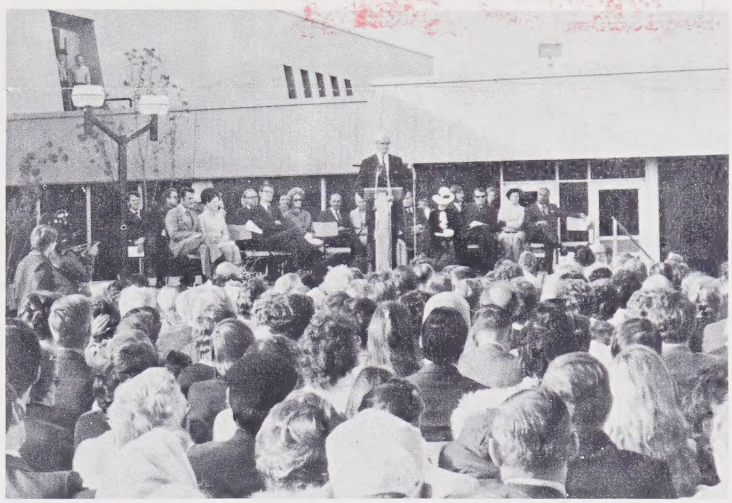
College Comment

Key to Current Issues in Alberta Public Colleges

NEW COLLEGE CAMPUS OFFICIALLY OPENS AT MEDICINE HAT

A further indication of the continued growth and development of the community college system in Alberta is the permanent campus of Medicine Hat College. The new facility was officially opened Sunday, October 3. It provides 151,605 square feet of floor space at a contract cost of $3,790,125.00. The college design offers a central core with radiating wings providing facilities for various disciplines. The central core contains the dining room, performing arts theatre, library, gymnasium, lounges, bookstore and administrative offices. A reduced wing from the core is associated with a performing arts theatre; providing further facilities for fine arts. Other wings offer facilities for instruction in natural sciences and social sciences. The landscaping of the grounds follows a bold plan. The need for and use of irrigation water culminated in a design of a small artificial lake system with thousands of trees strategically located at various points on the campus. The landscaping plan was developed by a group headed by Duncan Hargrave, former Director of the Horticultural Station at Brooks. The architectural firm for the building project was J.H. Cook and Associates of Calgary with CANA Construction Company Ltd. as the general contractor.

The opening followed seven years of planning, during which time the college operated out of leased facility. 1500 turned out to view the opening ceremonies at which Lieutenant Governor J.W. Grant MacEwan officiated. Among the official guests were Hon. Jim Foster, Minister of Advanced Education, Hon. H.A. Olson, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Dr. Henry Kolesar, Chairman of the Alberta Colleges Commission. Other Commission members present were Dr. H.J. Quinn of Grande Prairie and J.D. Mitchell of Vulcan. Each of them had praise for those whose efforts were culminated in the construction of the new Medicine Hat College campus. They also expressed acknowledgments to those members of the various committees who were responsible for the planning of the activities associated with the official opening and the events of "College Week" which followed.



1971-72 Enrolment Increase

1971-72 preliminary enrolment figures for the six public colleges in Alberta indicate an approximate "full-time equivalent" total of 5892 students. The figure compares with 4918 FTE students enroled in the fall of 1970; an increase of 974 students. However, the 1971-72 approximations represent a drop of 373 students from the FTE projections. The exceptions are Mount Royal College in Calgary and Grande Prairie Regional College. Also, consideration would have to be given to Grant MacEwan Community College which began operation this year. The total number of students enroled in the college's fall semester represents 460 of the approximate FTE total for all colleges.

An increasing number of general interest courses and short courses are being offered at all of the colleges in 1971-72; however, students enroled in the courses are not considered in the preliminary count. These students are enroled in programs with no direct, per student grant, which is the basis for the "full-time equivalent" calculation.

Preliminary 1971-72 Enrolments

	Grande Prairie	Grant MacEwan	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Mount Royal	Red Deer	Total
Projected enrolment	350	500	1225	694	2396	1100	6265
Approx. FTE total	352	460	1200	530	2400	950	5892

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Commission Appointments

Four new members recently took their places on the nine member Alberta Colleges Commission. In compliance with The Colleges Act, Dr. R.E. Rees assumed the position created by the resignation of Dr. T.C. Byrne as Deputy Minister of Education. Dr. Byrne is now president of Athabasca University. Dr. G.R. Purnell assumed the position on the Commission vacated by Dr. E.E. Ballantyne who no longer serves as Deputy Minister of Agriculture. Dr. Ballantyne has assumed the position of Deputy Minister, the Department of the Environment. The Colleges Act specifies that the Deputy Provincial Treasurer also serve on the Colleges Commission. Since the retirement of F.G. Stewart from that position, acting Deputy Provincial Treasurer J.M. Currie has served on the Commission and will continue to do so until such time as a Deputy Provincial Treasurer is appointed. A fourth new commission member is Dr. H.J. Quinn, who fills the vacancy created with the retirement of W.H. Bowes of Grande Prairie. Dr. Quinn is a former Chairman of the Grande Prairie Regional College board.

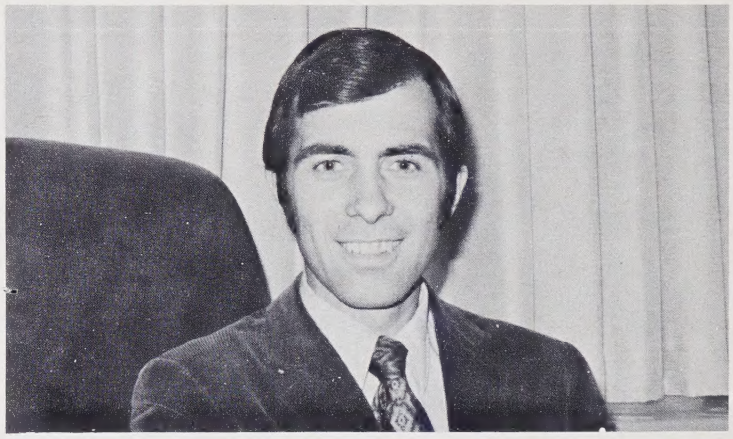
College Board Appointments

The Commission form of government is such that local control of institutions is made the responsibility of Boards of Governors. They are empowered to establish policies for the conduct of affairs of each college. Each board consists of the President of the College, an academic staff member who is nominated by the staff association of the college, a member of the student body of the college nominated by the Students' council, and five other persons, one of whom is designated as Chairman.

Recent appointments include the following: At Grande Prairie Regional College, **Victor Krupka** was appointed as the representative of the college academic staff; **H.K. Hanson** was reappointed and again is designated as Chairman of the College Board; and **James Watson** was also appointed. At Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton, **Winnifred Ferguson** and **Fred Kurylo** were appointed to the board. At Lethbridge Community College, **R. D. Livingstone** was reappointed to the college board. Appointed were **James Anderson, Ben Brooks and Jean Boon. Mr. Brooks** is the representative from the college academic staff, **Miss Boon** the students' council representative. At Medicine Hat College **C. Thurston** has been reappointed to another term. Appointed were **Lorna Shaw** and **J.B. Bird.** Mr. Bird is the representative from the Academic Staff of the College. At Mount Royal College, Calgary, reappointed were **Mrs. H. Cohen** who will again act as Board Chairman, and **P.N. Webber** who represents the academic staff. Appointed are **Dennis Docherty,** the Students' Council representative, and **Reverend Donald MacMahon.** At Red Deer College, **Dr. R.L. Hay** is reappointed. Appointed are **Mark Lund,** the Students' Council representative, and **Mattie L. McCullough.**

Commission Appoints Information Officer

The appointment of Glen Yost as Information Officer for the Alberta Colleges Commission was effective July 1st. Over the past twelve years Mr. Yost has been associated with broadcasting in Western Canada; principally involved in Radio and Television news and public affairs. The past three years he has attended the University of Alberta, registered in the faculty of education. His new responsibilities include publication of the Commission Annual Report and the quarterly newsletter College Comment. Mr. Yost will also be responsible for providing better communication among the public colleges; between the colleges and the Commission, as well as between the entire system and the public generally. He shares offices with other members of the Commission staff at Suite 600, 11160 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton.



At the present time, the newly-appointed Commission Information Officer is attempting to establish a Committee of Information Officers with representation from each of the six colleges. The object of such a committee is to create channels provide a better flow of information within the college system. A type of workshop is being planned for the latter part of October, at which time the Information Officers will have an opportunity to discuss the type of information program which exists at the college they represent, and possibly exchange ideas which might provide some improvement for their particular information service.

The establishment of an information service within the college system should allow for an increasing number of contributions to **College Comment.** This publication will continue to function primarily as a communication medium between the Commission and the members of the college system and also endeavour to serve as a channel for inter-communication among colleges.

In each of the next six issues of **College Comment,** we will be featuring one of the six public colleges in Alberta. In this issue the feature college is Red Deer College.

New College Programs

A total of eighteen new college programs were offered in the province's six public colleges in September, 1971. Fifteen were approved earlier, for introduction at Grant MacEwan Community College, Edmonton, in this its first year of operation. They are in the following areas: Nursing, Police Science, Business Administration, Medical Equipment Technology, Secretarial Science, Fashion Sales Technology, Recreation Leadership, Child Care Worker, Behavioral Science Technician, General Arts and Science, and Social Care Worker. Included are programs in Communication Arts: Journalism, Advertising, Audio Visual Technician and Public Relations. Also approved for introduction in September, 1971; a program in Commercial Cooking at Medicine Hat College and a program in Environmental Control at Mount Royal College in Calgary.

The Alberta Colleges Commission has also approved the introduction of a two year diploma program for Instructional Assistants to be introduced at Grant MacEwan Community College in January, 1972.

The responsibility of developing programs for the two year colleges in Alberta lies with the Instructional Services Branch of the Alberta Colleges Commission. Here programs are identified and promoted, examined and approved; and guidelines are established for college program allocation. This branch serves as a liaison with government departments involved in educational pursuits, (i.e.) Health, Social Development, Attorney-General and Environment. There is also a liaison with business and professional agencies for the examination of manpower requirements as they relate to training and education. Such efforts provide the college system with opportunities to expand according to existing needs.

Feature College:

Red Deer College began operations in 1964 as a Junior College affiliated with the University of Alberta. The establishment of the College was sponsored by the School Districts and Counties of Red Deer, Mountainview, Lacombe and Rocky Mountain House. The administrative task of establishing the college fell to **Mr. G.H. Dawe** and the college's first dean was **Mr. Peter Raffa** who later became President. Mr. Raffa retired in the spring of 1971. In May of 1971 **Dr. M.N. Eastman** assumed the position of College President.

The College was first housed in the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School. In 1968 the College moved to its modern new campus located on a spacious site on the southwest outskirts of the City. Modern residences featuring townhousing and apartment-like living for both married and single students are now under construction. A library extension, additional science laboratories, more classrooms, extra office space, and a cafeteria and food services complex are all underway. The construction of a Students' Association Building is expected to get underway in the near future.

Over its eight years of operation, Red Deer College

has had an impressive number of firsts; two of which are, the first college to offer second year university courses, and the first college to develop the two year Nursing Diploma Program.

On September 13, 1971, **Mr. Jim Foster,** Minister of Advanced Education, initiated another first at the College. He officially opened the Data Centre. The project is a first in Alberta in that two educational institutions have combined to share time on one computer. The data centre at Red Deer College is connected via telephone cable to the computer at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology through what is called a "remote batch entry system." This arrangement allows the college complete access to all the services available on a big computer, even though in this case it is 100 miles away. As a result of this arrangement, Red Deer College has become the first college outside of Edmonton and Calgary to offer data processing and computer science courses to students.

This semester the college has become the first institution outside of the university system to offer, through the Institute of Canadian Bankers, courses in the E.C.B. fellows program.

At present, Red Deer College, having already embarked on a course in basic aeronautics, is exploring further courses in related fields.

All of the developments currently underway at the College are testimony of its continuing effort to serve as a comprehensive institution of post-secondary education and to serve the community, and thereby to realize its potential in terms of the statement of policy as given by the Alberta Colleges Commission.

What do our clients need?

The Alberta Colleges Commission has contracted the Alberta Human Resources Research Council to conduct a study to determine the needs and motivations of students currently attending Alberta post-secondary non-university institutions.

The study forms a part of the Commission's Master Planning Project which is expected to identify the educational needs which should be met by the post-secondary non-university educational system. Following data collection on client, manpower and societal needs, the project will involve representatives of professional staffs in identifying the services and programs required to meet these needs. Policies for the allocation and implementation of the identified services and programs will be developed during the final stages of the Master Planning Project.

The Client Needs and Motivations study will be conducted using a questionnaire developed by the Human Resources Research Council in consultation with Dr. John McLeish, professor of psychology at the University of Alberta. The questionnaire will be completed by respondents selected on a five percent random sample basis. All students currently registered in Alberta post-secondary non-university institutions formed the population from which the sample was drawn.

Interviews will be conducted with a small number of students selected from the questionnaire respondents as a follow-up to the initial data collection. These interviews are expected to provide additional insights into student needs and motivations.

The outcomes of the study are expected to indicate directly and by inference the expressed needs of the individual students, the needs of face-to-face groups at specific institutions, the current needs of the total post-secondary non-university population, and the expectations which specific groups have for their institution. A generalization of results and analyses is expected to yield useful conclusions about the expectations of the total student population in relation to the Alberta post-secondary educational system.

Dr. Dave Flathman, Coordinator of Data and Statistical Services for HRRC, has indicated that the study will be completed in draft form in December, 1971. The results of the study will be published by the Alberta Colleges Commission for distribution to participating institutions in February, 1972.

Research Studies

Previous issues of College Comment listed research studies which were supported in part by the Alberta Colleges Commission. The studies are recognized as a significant contribution to the successful operation of colleges in Alberta and elsewhere. Research study No. 11 and No. 12 were prepared by commission staff members; Study No. 11 by Dr. R.G. Fast, Director of Instructional Services, and No. 12 by Neil Clark who served as an intern with the Colleges Commission and now is continuing his studies as a doctoral student in Educational Administration at the University of Alberta. Both of the Research Studies have been discussed in previous issues of College Comment.

David Jeffares, graduate student at the University of Alberta, has completed Research Study No. 13, entitled "Students' Perceptions of Their Involvement in Decision-making Processes Associated with the Governance of Two Alberta Colleges". The study's findings suggest a number of things for consideration by all individuals and groups interested in college governance. As an example, it points out the existence of a number of decision-making areas to which a board must address itself and suggests that many of these are of little interest to students generally. Mr. Jeffares suggests a continuing investigation to seek ways, whereby the student wishing a greater degree of participation in decision-making areas might be given more than he now receives through membership on the board of the college he attends.

Copies of the studies are made available to interested people throughout the province; particularly college presidents and their academic staff. A copy of each study is also filed in the library of the Alberta Colleges Commission for the perusal of anyone who is interested.

Research Study No. 11, Dr. R.G. Fast, **Some Perceptions of Education In Western Europe,** 1971.

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Research Study No. 13, D. Jeffares, **Students' Perceptions of their Involvement in Decision-Making Processes Associated With the Governance of Two Alberta Colleges,** 1971.

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